

I'm the biologist putting together the NEPA Environmental Assessments for the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Network. This network consists of over 900 sites across the US, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Pacific Islands with telecommunication towers associated with them.

One of the towers within the NWR network located in Castilia near Cleveland appears to be a casualty to the "migratory bird" phenomenon. Can you please provide me the statistics and GIS data supporting the "50 million bird deaths" caused by telecommunication towers indicating the areas of greatest impact in the US? For the record, this is the first I've heard of telecommunication towers and not communication/power lines being the cause. In the past, I've found municipalities are prone to send a charge through communication lines frequented by large numbers of migratory birds to reduce their weight (due to their sheer numbers which cause line breakage and power outages thus incurring a higher maintenance fee) and thus reduce the bird's over-all population and continuing communication line threat for several years.

By the way, does your data-set include the resultant offset variance of migratory bird de-population due to natural predators (possums, foxes, raccoons, and snakes to name a few) that have been removed by traffic or loss of predator habitat? If not, then the number of migratory bird deaths is not significant.

In addition to your data and statistics supporting your findings, I'd also like to know about the FCC recommendations on "how to prevent bird deaths for various tower heights" including the large monopoles used by the cellphone industry.

Thank you.

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